

Registration of Voters (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

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SCHEDULE.—Oath to be taken by certain persons.

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B I L L

TO

Amend the Law with reference to the Registration of A.D. 1876.
Parliamentary Voters in Ireland.

WHERRAS it is expedient to facilitate the registration of persons entitled to the franchise, and to prevent frivolous objections: And whereas other amendments are required in the laws relating to the registration of parliamentary electors in Ireland:

5 Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows; (that is to say,)

Preliminary.

- 10 1. "Principal Act" shall mean the Act passed in the session of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, as amended by the "Registration Acts." "Registration Acts" in this Act shall mean the Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-nine, and all
- 15 other Acts or parts of Acts relating to the registration or qualification of persons entitled to vote at the election of members to serve in Parliament for Ireland as amended by this Act.

Definition of
"principal
Act" and of
"Registration
Acts."

2. This Act shall apply to Ireland only, but shall not extend to the borough of the University of Dublin.

Extent of
Act.

- 20 3. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Registration Amendment (Ireland) Act, 1876.

Short title.

Prevention of frivolous Objections.

4. A notice of objection given under sections twenty-six or thirty-six respectively of the "principal Act" to any person upon any
- 25 list of voters shall not be valid unless the ground or grounds of objection be specifically stated therein; and each ground of objection shall be deemed a separate ground of objection; the notice of such

Notice of
objection
shall state
grounds of
objection.

[Bill 4.]

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A.D. 1876. objection to be given to the clerk of the peace or town clerk shall be a copy of the notice given to the person objected to.

See 13 & 14 Vict. c. 69, s. 55. No person objected to by a notice under the said section of the principal Act, as amended by this section, shall be required to give evidence before the chairman or revising barrister in support of his right to be registered otherwise than as such right is called in question in the ground or grounds of objection specified in the notice.

Each ground of objection to be treated as a separate objection, and costs awarded.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 69, s. 62.

5. Every separate ground of objection in any notice given in accordance with this Act shall be treated by the chairman or revising barrister as a separate objection; and for every such ground of objection which, in the opinion of the chairman or revising barrister, has been groundlessly or frivolously and vexatiously stated, he shall, on the application of the person objected to, or any one on his behalf, and upon the production of the notice of objection, award costs against the objector to the amount of at least *two shillings and sixpence*, and this though the name of the person objected to be expunged upon some other ground of objection stated in the same notice of objection.

Costs to be awarded in case of objection not being proved.

6. Where any objection is made to any person appearing on any list of voters for any county, city, town, or borough, or to any person claiming to be on such list of voters, and the name of the person so objected to is retained on or inserted in the list by the chairman or revising barrister, the chairman or revising barrister shall, unless for special reasons he otherwise determine, order costs to be paid to the person objected to, to such an amount as in his discretion he shall think fit.

Proceedings on objection made to voters on list other than list of claimants.

13 & 14 Vict. c. 69, s. 53.

7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the "principal Act" contained, where any person whose name is on any list of voters for a county, city, town, or borough, (not being a list of claimants,) is duly objected to by some person other than the clerk of the peace, the clerk of the union, the poor-rate collectors, or the town clerk, the chairman or revising barrister, whether the person objected to does or does not appear before him, shall, before requiring it to be proved that the person so objected to is entitled to have his name inserted in the list of voters for such county, city, town, or borough, or expunging such name, require *prima facie* proof to be given to his satisfaction of some ground of objection against such person, and, for the purpose of determining whether such *prima facie* proof is satisfactory, shall examine the collectors of poor rates, clerk of the union, or any other person who may be present, touching the truth of the alleged ground of objection, and

if such prima facie proof is not so given to his satisfaction, he shall retain the name of the person objected to in the list of voters.

A.D. 1876.

Miscellaneous.

8. The clerk of each poor law union wholly or in part within the limits of any county in Ireland, after he shall have made out the supplemental list in the twentieth section of the "principal Act" mentioned and directed to be made out, but before transmitting the same to the clerk of the peace of the county as in said section is mentioned, shall deliver such supplemental list to the respective collector or collectors of poor rate for such respective barony or division of a barony; and such collector or collectors shall upon such list enter objections before the names of persons in such supplemental list contained, and not entitled to be on the register next to be made, in like manner in all respects and in the like cases as in the nineteenth section of the principal Act is directed and required with regard to the copy of register of such barony or division of a barony, and such respective poor rate collector or collectors shall return such lists to the clerk of the union in sufficient time to enable such clerk of the union to deal with said list, as is directed by the twentieth section of the said principal Act.

Poor rate collectors to enter objections on list.
13 & 14 Vict. c. 69. s. 20.

9. The provisions of the sixty-seventh section of the "principal Act" shall apply to all poor rate collectors as fully as the same apply to any clerk of the peace or town clerk.

Certain provisions of the 13 & 14 Vict. c. 67 to apply to poor rate collectors.

10. In each court of revision holden in or for any such county, city, town, or borough, every collector of poor rate or other officer or person having the custody of any such rate or rate-books (whose duty it is under any of the Registration Acts to assist in the preparation, revision, or correction of the lists of voters) shall attend before the chairman or revising barrister, and shall answer upon oath all such questions as such chairman or revising barrister may put to him, and shall also at the commencement of each revision make and subscribe the oath contained in the schedule hereto; and it shall be lawful for the chairman or revising barrister, from time to time as there shall be occasion, to fine any such collector of poor rate or other officer who shall be guilty of any breach of duty in execution of this Act any sum not exceeding *five pounds*.

Poor rate collectors to attend revision courts and subscribe oath. Power to fine persons guilty of breach of duty a sum not exceeding 5*l*.

11. The guardians of the poor of each union of every county, city, town, or borough shall, by order, make such annual allowance out of the rates to the poor rate collectors, as compensation for the duty by this Act imposed upon them, as the said guardians

Remuneration to poor rate collectors.

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A.D. 1876. shall think proper; but no such order shall be acted on, nor any payment made thereunder, until the same shall be approved of by the Local Government Board.

Medical relief not to disqualify.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 59, s. 111.

12. Section one hundred and eleven of the "Principal Act" shall not apply to persons who shall receive medical but no other relief under the Acts for the more effectual relief of the poor in Ireland. 5

Power to enforce attendance of witnesses summoned.
13 & 14 Vict.
c. 59, s. 55.

13. Any person who shall refuse or neglect, when duly required by summons under the hand of any chairman or revising barrister, to attend before such chairman or revising barrister at any court to be holden under the "principal Act," or under any other Act empowering a chairman or revising barrister to hold courts for the revision of lists of parliamentary voters, for the purpose of being examined as a witness, shall, upon proof before him of the service of such summons, be liable to pay by way of fine for every such offence a sum of money not exceeding *five pounds* nor less than *twenty shillings*, to be imposed by and at the discretion of the said chairman or revising barrister holding any such court as aforesaid, and to be recovered in the same manner as the other fines imposed by said Act are now by law recoverable. 15 20

Persons refusing to give evidence liable to imprisonment.

Any person who shall have been duly summoned and shall refuse to give evidence before the chairman or revising barrister at any court to be holden under the principal Act, or under any other Act empowering a chairman or revising barrister to hold courts for the revision of lists of parliamentary voters, shall be liable to imprisonment for contempt of court for a period not exceeding *six weeks*, at the discretion of the chairman or revising barrister. 25

Revision courts to be held at polling stations.

14. The chairman or revising barrister of every county or riding shall hold open courts for the revision of the lists of voters at each of the places which may be from time to time appointed as polling places for such county or riding: Provided always, that the Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland may, if he or they shall consider any of such places inconvenient for the purpose of holding such revision courts, appoint such other places within the said county or riding as he or they shall think more convenient and suitable for the revision of voters for such county or riding. 30 35

Registers of voters, &c., in counties to contain lists of names of persons on such register and lists.

15. Every year after the year *one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six* the register for each county in Ireland, and every list of voters or list of claimants for such county, shall contain the post town of the place of abode of every person whose name shall be upon such register, list of voters or list of claimants, for such county. 40

16. In every case where by the principal Act or any of the other Registration Acts, any notice, list, register, or other document shall be required to be posted or kept at or near the police station, such notice, list, register, or other document shall also be posted at the doors of every chapel and church in the barony where such notice, list, register, or other document is required to be posted, and at the market places at which notices are usually published.

A.D. 1876.
All notices, lists, &c. to be posted at church doors, &c.

17. All precepts, instruments, proceedings, and notices relating to the registration of voters shall be framed and expressed in such manner and form as may be necessary for the carrying of the provisions of this Act into effect.

Precepts, &c. to be made conformable to this Act.

18. This Act, so far as is consistent with the tenor thereof, shall be construed as one with the enactments of the "Registration Acts;" and the words and expressions to which by the "Registration Acts" meanings are assigned have in this Act the same respective meanings, unless excluded by the subject or context.

Construction of Act.

19. This Act shall come into force on the first of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six.

Date of operation of Act.

SCHEDULE

20 OATH to be taken by CLERK of the PRACE, TOWN CLERK, POOR RATE COLLECTOR, at the commencement of the sitting of REVISION COURT.

I make oath and say that I have honestly and faithfully and to the best of my ability discharged all the duties imposed upon me by law relating to the preparation, revision, and correction of the lists of voters which are to be revised at the present court of revision.

(Signed)

Served this

day of

before me

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[The chairman or revising barrister.]

Registration of Voters (Ireland).

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BILL

To amend the Law with reference to the
Registration of Parliamentary Voters
in Ireland.

*(Prepared and brought in by
Mr. Michael Henry, Mr. Meade, Mr. Sargent,
Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Sullivan.)*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
9 February 1876.*

[Bill 4.]

Under 1. 92.